

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04240 190259Z

11

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 L-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 SS-15

SP-02 NSC-05 DRC-01 /075 W

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R 190109Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6562

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, XF, SREF, EAID, UNRWA

SUBJ: UNRWA WORKING GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 227735 (NOTAL), (B) USUN 3993, (C) USUN 3770

1. UNRWA WORKING GROUP APPROVED DRAFT REPORT OCT. 17
(REFTEL A) WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES.

2. COMMISSIONER-GENERAL SIR JOHN RENNIE REPORTED
ANTICIPATED \$39 MILLION 1975 DEFICIT BASED ON \$109 BUDGET
AND ESTIMATED \$70 MILLION CONTRIBUTIONS. PROBLEM IS OF
DIFFERENT MAGNITUDE COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR WHEN DEFICIT
WAS IN \$10 MILLION RANGE WHICH MADE UP BY SPECIAL CON-
TRIBUTIONS FROM USG AND EEC. REDUCTIONS IN SERVICES IN
1975 NEEDED TO STAY WITHIN ANTICIPATED INCOME WOULD
INCLUDE: TERMINATION OF PREPARATORY EDUCATION IN APRIL
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN JUNE, TERMINATION OF RATIONS
EXCLUDING THOSE RECEIVED AS DONATIONS IN KIND, PLUS
OTHER UNSPECIFIED REDUCTIONS. SIR JOHN SAID HE PINNING
HIS HOPES ON DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING 29TH GA AMONG
COUNTRIES "INTERESTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST," BUT DID NOT
OFFER SPECIFICS ON WHERE FUNDS MIGHT BE FOUND TO MEET
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PAGE 02 USUN N 04240 190259Z

ANTICIPATED DEFICIT. ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FINANCIAL

SUPPORT MUST BE RECEIVED DURING CURRENT GA; OTHERWISE
REDUCTION PROGRAM MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

3. LEBANON REP MAHMASSANI (WHO ALSO REPRESENTS ARAB
HOST COUNTRIES) SAID HE COULD NOT ACQUIESCE IN ANY
REDUCTION IN SERVICES. HIS DELEGATION IS CONSIDERING
"IDEAS" TO PRESENT TO SPC TO SOLVE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.
(COMMENT. "IDEAS DOUBTLESS REFER TO PROPOSAL BEING
DISCUSSED AMONG ARABS TO PUT SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF UNRWA
BUDGET IN UN BUDGET.)

4. LENGTHY DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON WHETHER IT FEASIBLE
TO HAVE UN PICK UP PORTION OF UNRWA BUDGET. CONSENSUS
WAS IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR UN TO PAY EXPENSES OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT EMPLOYEES OF UNRWA, BUT
THERE INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING UN TO PICK
UP OPERATING EXPENSES. SIR JOHN SAID HE HAS LONG
RECOMMENDED THAT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS BE PAID
BY UN, BUT THIS ONLY APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION ITEM IN
BUDGET AND WOULD DO LITTLE TO SOLVE DEFICIT. HOWEVER,
IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE UN COMMITMENT TO UNRWA, AND POSSIBLY
ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. POINT
ALSO MADE THAT DONORS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO MAKE
CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WENT STRICTLY FOR RELIEF WORKS
RATHER THAN HAVING PORTION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS GO
FOR "HIGH PRICE" CIVIL SERVANTS.

5. DISCUSSION ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH NO POTENTIALLY
USEFUL PROPOSALS FOR OVERCOMING DEFICIT. UNRWA DEBATE
IN SPC NOT LIKELY TO START UNTIL NOVEMBER 15-20, WHICH
LEAVES LITTLE TIME FOR UN MEMBERS TO FOCUS ON FINANCIAL
PROBLEM.

6. U.S. REP MADE NO COMMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF INCORPORA-
TING PORTION OF UNRWA BUDGET INTO UN REGULAR PROGRAM
BUDGET SINCE DEPARTMENT'S UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS NOT YET
RECEIVED.
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